

Do You Know...Ohan?

Man on a Mission

Ohan Korlikian is a deputy sheriff at the Provincial Court of B.C. in Vancouver. His daily job, dealing with offenders in the criminal justice system, can be demanding. As a counter-balance, Ohan decided to work to raise money for children's charities in his off-hours, and he's doing it while pursuing a hobby he loves. But hold it – we're getting ahead of ourselves. Ohan's story really begins a while back...

A Father's Wish

In 1996, Ohan's father was terminally ill in a Montreal hospital, but with the help of the hospital's "wish-granting" program, he received his last wish of seeing his son again – all decked out in his R.C.M.P. uniform (Ohan was then attending the R.C.M.P. training academy in Regina). This wonderful program gave father and son an important last moment together, and Ohan a memory for a lifetime. Although Ohan made the decision to leave the R.C.M.P. before completing his training, he later decided to re-enter the field of law enforcement, becoming a B.C. sheriff in June of 2000. And he's been with us ever since.

Charity Case

Ohan's experience with his father obviously planted a seed, and when Ohan decided to use his love of cars to help kids in need, he immediately thought of sick children who might need some wishes granted. So in 2006 he began his children's charity work by raising funds for the [Make-A-Wish Foundation of Canada](#). "There's nothing as gratifying as helping others," he says. "One person really can make a difference."



In addition to his racing efforts (more on that below), he built a soapbox racer for a "Wish" child to race at the 2007 Kitsilano soapbox derby. After the race it was auctioned and raised \$4,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Ode to the Road

Obviously Ohan loves cars, but his hands-down favourite is the Rootes Sunbeam – the quintessential classic British automobile. In 2006 Ohan and a friend drove his 1967 Sunbeam Alpine V from Vancouver to Newfoundland to compete in the world-class Tarmac Rally, [Targa Newfoundland](#). In addition to the excitement of the drive and the race, he managed to raise \$15,500 for Make-A-Wish.



"It's a happy-looking car," he says of his Sunbeam. "People are drawn to it. They always stop when they see the car."

Ohan wants to continue to use his beloved Sunbeams as a way to help children, and his organization [Sunbeam Canada](#) is doing that.

"I formed a community-oriented group dedicated to restoring and preserving classic Rootes British automobiles while maintaining an ongoing commitment to children's charities," he says.

Next Steps...er, Miles

For 2008 (and onward), Ohan's got the BC Children's Hospital Foundation as his designated charity. He's building a special car to be raced locally, and it will be decorated with children's handprints and the Hospital Foundation logo. And in 2011, he's planning a really big odyssey – a drive from Vancouver to Lebanon to raise funds for charity and to mark the 35th anniversary of his family's emigration from that country to Canada.



Contact Ohan at sunbeamcanada@hotmail.com or by phone at 604 340-7869 if you're interested in contributing or otherwise helping his cause. He needs corporate sponsors and any other donation assistance. Remember, he's helping the kids.
"I don't want glory," he says. "I'm just doing what needs to be done."

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